

TRADESMAN AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

The Tradesman and Education Committee met on Wednesday, October 29, 2003 at the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), 3600 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The members indicated below were present.

James Hollar, Chairman
Anthony R. Orange, Vice Chair
Robert M. Kirby
Michael D. Redifer

Board member, Robert O. Burch, Jr. was not present.

The following members of DPOR staff were also present during some or the entire meeting:

Louise Fontaine Ware, Director
Eric L. Olson, Executive Director, Contractors
Kimberly Freiberger, RBA, Contractors
Sheila Watkins, Administrative Assistant, Contractors

Chairman James Hollar called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and declared that a quorum of board members was in attendance.

Call
To Order

Chairman Hollar asked the members of the public whether they had any comments. **There were no public comments.**

Public
Comment

A motion was made by Mr. Orange and seconded by Mr. Kirby that only contractors with the PLB classification may install any backflow device, contractors with the HVAC classification may install backflow devices incidental to the HVAC work being completed and, with the exception of those sprinkler contractors who have completed NICET level III certification, contractors holding the H/H, ISC and SPR will be required to complete a backflow training program, that includes the installation of backflow devices, approved by the Board, prior to being approved to install backflow devices. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. Members voting “**Yes**” were Hollar, Orange, Kinser, Kirby and Redifer. There were no negative votes.

Backflow
School
Review
(Installation)

Eric Olson addressed the committee concerning correspondence received by the Board for Contractors on Plumbing License Reciprocity between Maryland, Virginia and Washington Metropolitan Area. The

Reciprocity
Correspond-
ence

correspondence was signed by: The Metropolitan Washington Plumbing-Heating-Cooling, Contractors, the Washington Suburban Master Plumbers Association and the Associated Builders and Contractors of Metropolitan Washington and they affirm a campaign to encourage the state and county regulators to reopen the dialogue with the District of Columbia's Trades Board to reach a consensus on how to implement standards for reciprocal licensing in all of the jurisdictions.

Mr. Olson reminded the Committee that the new building code sections of the examination given to candidates applying for a tradesman license and the Designated Employee of Class A and B contractors will be extensively amended to reflect the recent changes in the code and will be in place starting December 1, 2003. Examination candidates have been aware of the fact that the tests would be changing for over six months, with the actual effective date being published in August, when we were notified of the October 2003 implementation date of the new building code. He pointed out the timing involved with the application processing validity period for the old test versus the new test and the implementation date of the new exam on December 1, 2003. Redifer offered a motion seconded by Kirby to make November 30, 2004 the effective date of giving prospective regulants the opportunity to apply for their license if they've successfully passed the test prior to December 1, 2003. The vote was unanimous. Members voting "yes" were: Hollar, Orange, Kirby and Redifer. The committee discussed a regulant's license lapsing and the current reinstatement period. Kirby offered a motion seconded by Redifer that as of December 1, 2003 if a person passes their reinstatement period of one (1) year they must take the new test and successfully pass it to meet the requirements for licensure reinstatement. The vote was unanimous. Members voting "yes" were: Hollar, Redifer, Orange and Kirby.

**New
Examination
Changeover –
Policy Review**

The Committee discussed the following:

1. They will speak with Bev Donati concerning the correction of apprenticeship language.
2. 240 hours is the current classroom requirement. The committee feels that the number of classroom hours needs to be modified.
3. The apprenticeship program currently requires 2,000 on the job training hours.

Mr. Orange stated, "The union requires 2,000 classroom hours and 5,000 on the job hours over a four year period. Orange offered a motion seconded by Kirby to require 144 hours per year of education requirements for the qualified workforce making a total of 576 hours. The vote was unanimous. Members voting "yes" were: Hollar, Orange, Kirby and Redifer. The committee discussed the number of hours required for

**Regulatory
Review**

continuing ed in order to be in compliance with the regulations. Redifer offered a motion to require twelve (12) hours over a two (2) year period, eight (8) of which are code training. There was no second. The motion did not carry. Orange offered a motion seconded by Kirby to require eight (8) total hours of continuing education of code training over a two (2) year licensing period per license. The vote was unanimous. Members voting "yes" were: Hollar, Redifer, Orange and Kirby. The committee discussed the Definition of a Supervisor as written in the current regulations. Redifer offered a motion seconded by Kirby to strike the words "on the jobsite" for this regulation. The vote was 3 "yes" and 1 "no". Members voting yes were: Hollar, Redifer and Kirby. Orange voted no. The motion was carried.

The Committee was provided a copy of the meeting schedule for 2004, which had been previously approved by the Board for Contractors at their October 8, 2003 meeting. It is possible that, due to regulatory review or action taken during the upcoming legislative session, other meetings may be added to the schedule. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is Wednesday, February 11, 2004.

2004
Committee
Meeting
Schedule

There was no old business to discuss.

Old Business

Redifer stated he'd like to thank Eric Olson and the staff at DPOR for expeditiously mailing the "buyer be ware" packets after hurricane Isabel. Orange stated he wanted to thank DPOR for the very informative newspaper adds after the recent hurricane and for the diversity of newspapers the ads were printed in. Orange also wants it noted that he wants the committee members to continue receiving the meeting agendas by mail. Eric Olson shared information with the committee as follows: As a point of information the Committee needs to be aware that the Virginia Housing Study Commission is endorsing a bill to bring certified elevator mechanics under the fold of the tradesman "licensure system". He also shared that the Virginia Water Well Association is looking at having well water drillers certified. Currently they are looking for a sponsor. Kim Freiburger shared with the Committee a request she received from a perspective regulant whether or not an online plumbing course would be accepted/recognized by the Board? She asked if the committee recommended that the school's curriculum be taken to the Board for Contractor for approval as a certified school? Kirby offered a motion seconded by Orange that the committee not endorse the school. The vote was unanimous. Members voting "yes" were: Orange, Kirby, Redifer and Hollar.

New Business

There being no further business to discuss Orange offered a motion seconded by Redifer to adjourn at 12:55 PM. The vote was unanimous. Members voting “yes” were: Hollar, Orange, Redifer and Kirby.

Adjournment

James Hollar, Chairman

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Custodian of the Record

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